

What is claimed is:

1. 1. An apparatus for removably mounting a computer peripheral device into a bay of a computer, the apparatus comprising:
  - 3 a computer peripheral device having a side surface, the side surface having a first key profile and plural alignment elements; and
  - 5 a mounting rail having a second key profile adapted to lockingly engage the first key profile, the mounting rail further having alignment elements to engage corresponding alignment elements of the computer peripheral device.
- 1 2. 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail is attached to the computer peripheral device by the first and second key profiles without the use of an additional fastener.
- 1 3. 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail is attached to the computer peripheral device by the first and second key profiles without the use of a screw.
- 1 4. 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first key profile comprises a key receptacle, and 2 wherein the second key profile has a protruding element to lockingly engage the key 3 receptacle.
- 1 5. 5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the protruding element of the second key profile 2 has an enlarged plate for insertion into the key receptacle, the key receptacle further having a 3 reduced size opening that is narrower than the enlarged plate to enable locking engagement of 4 the enlarged plate within the receptacle.
- 1 6. 6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the alignment elements of the computer peripheral 2 device side surface comprises alignment holes, and the alignment elements of the mounting 3 rail comprise alignment posts adapted to engage the alignment holes.

1       7.     The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail has an engagement recess to  
2     engage a latch member in a peripheral device mounting bay of a system.

1       8.     The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the peripheral device has a second side surface  
2     having a third key profile and plural alignment elements, the apparatus further comprising:  
3              a second mounting rail having a fourth key profile adapted to lockingly engage the  
4     third key profile, the second mounting rail having alignment elements to engage  
5     corresponding alignment elements of the second side surface of the peripheral device.

1       9.     The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a shock absorbing member provided  
2     between the mounting rail and the side surface of the peripheral device.

1       10.    The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the shock absorbing member comprises a generally  
2     ring-shaped member.

1       11.    The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail is curved to provide a bending  
2     force to enhance locking engagement between the first and second key profiles.

1       12.    The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail is formed of a polymer.

1       13.    The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting rail is removably mounted to the  
2     computer peripheral device.

1       14.    The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an assembly of the peripheral device and the  
2     mounting rail is adapted to be removably mounted in the bay with a snap-locking mechanism.

1       15.    A mounting apparatus for enabling the mounting of a computer peripheral device to a  
2     peripheral device bay of a computer system, comprising:  
3              a mounting rail; and  
4              an adhesive element adapted to attach the mounting rail to a side surface of the  
5     computer peripheral device.

1       16.     The mounting apparatus of claim 15, wherein the mounting rail has alignment  
2     elements to align the mounting rail with respect to the side surface of the computer peripheral  
3     device.

1       17.     The mounting apparatus of claim 15, wherein the mounting rail has a recess to receive  
2     a latch member of the peripheral device bay.

1       18.     The mounting apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a shock absorbing member  
2     provided on a side of the mounting rail to face the computer peripheral device.

1       19.     The mounting apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a second mounting rail and a  
2     second adhesive element to attach the second mounting rail to the side surface of the  
3     peripheral device.

1       20.     The mounting apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a third mounting rail and a  
2     third adhesive element to attach the third mounting rail to another side surface of the  
3     peripheral device.

1       21.     A method of mounting a computer peripheral device into a peripheral device bay of a  
2     computer system, comprising:

3              providing the computer peripheral device having a side surface, the side surface  
4     having a first key profile and plural alignment elements;  
5              lockingly engaging a second key profile of a mounting rail to the first key profile; and  
6              engaging alignment elements of the mounting rail with corresponding alignment  
7     elements of the side surface of the computer peripheral device.

1       22.     The method of claim 21, further comprising:

2              providing a recess in the mounting rail; and  
3              engaging the recess with a latch member of the peripheral device bay upon mounting  
4     the computer peripheral device in the peripheral device bay.

1       23.     The method of claim 21, wherein lockingly engaging the mounting rail to the  
2     computer peripheral device is accomplished without using a tool.

1       24.     The method of claim 21, wherein the mounting rail is curved, and wherein engaging  
2       the first and second key profiles comprises un-bending the mounting rail to enable  
3       engagement of the first and second key profiles.

1       25.     The method of claim 21, further comprising removably attaching the mounting rail to  
2       the computer peripheral device.

1       26.     A computer system comprising:  
2              a computer peripheral device;  
3              a bay receiving the computer peripheral device; and  
4              a mounting rail attached to the computer peripheral device, the mounting rail slidably  
5       engaged in the bay,  
6              the computer peripheral device comprising a side surface having a first key profile  
7       and alignment elements,  
8              the mounting rail having a second key profile to be lockingly engaged to the first key  
9       profile, the mounting rail further having alignment elements to engage corresponding  
10      alignment elements of the side surface of the computer peripheral device.

1       27.     The computer system of claim 26, wherein one of the first and second key profiles  
2       comprises a protrusion, and the other one of the first and second key profiles comprises a key  
3       receptacle to receive the protrusion.

1       28.     The computer system of claim 27, wherein the protrusion comprises an enlarged plate  
2       inserted through a first portion of the key receptacle, the key receptacle having a narrow  
3       portion with a width less than that of the enlarged plate to enable locking engagement of the  
4       first and second key profiles.

1       29.     The computer system of claim 26, wherein the mounting rail is formed of a polymer.

1       30.     The computer system of claim 26, wherein the bay comprises a snap-locking  
2       mechanism to removably receive the computer peripheral device.